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Respectfully submitted, Marsha Dewell Administrative Assistant

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At 7:54 p.m. Council took a recess and reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

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Reviewed and approved Michael R. Beimer City Administrator

## MINUTES MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 18, 2013

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for historical lighting and also a provision exempting the City from the ordinance, because of the contract that the City has with Alliant for street lighting. Taylor was concerned with security issues with the 60% lighting reduction requirement after a certain time. Because residential districts were exempt from the ordinances, Christensen voiced concern about non-residential lighting applications in residential districts, such as a church or funeral home. Jordan stated that when the Planning and Zoning Commission discussed this issue, they assumed that if there were problems between neighbors about lighting, there were other nuisance ordinances that could be used. Peterson asked attorney Bob Hatala to look into the variance and penalty process and also where the ordinance would be placed within the Code of Ordinances. Hatala said his initial thought is that it should be part of the zoning ordinance. Hampton asked if the first sentence under "Field Verification" could be made clearer. Jordan pointed out that there is a significant amount of lighting in town that comes from Cornell College and they are in a residential district and also excluded from this ordinance. This is actually one of the reasons that the Planning and Zoning Commission decided to exclude residential districts because they felt that it would be complicated to regulate the lighting on campus. They have their own lighting issues with providing lighting for young people on campus. With that being said, Christensen's concerns regarding the residential districts were alleviated. Christensen then made a motion to approve the first reading subject to review and possible re-wording around variance and the language around verification/access to property and penalties and general conformance to the form of ordinance appropriate for the zoning section. Seconded by Taylor. Roll call all yes. Anthony absent.

- 7. City Engineer Report. There is a contract for the 2012 sidewalk assessments and work will begin when the weather warms up. The entire project for the Hwy 30 Corridor Improvements is open to through traffic. Work continues on the Quiet Zone project. The DOT will be opening bids in January for the Hwy 1 Resurfacing Project. Plans are being prepared for the Hwy 30 bypass. Boggs has met with Chad Sands in preparation for the Comprehensive Plan update. City zoning and utility maps are being updated.
- 8. Public Works Director Report. Christmas wreaths have been installed uptown. The "no parking" sign has been installed on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW between Palisades Road and Hwy 30. Last week was the last week for brush pick up this year. Wulfekuhle Contracting hauled 163,428 gallons of bio-solids last month. Weather permitting, non-functioning curb stops will be replaced.
- 9. Discussion and possible action on recommendation for pool renovation analysis. Parks and Recreation Director, Matt Siders, provided Council with an estimate from Pool Tech for a thorough pool analysis. The consensus of Council was that the proposal was more in-depth than they had anticipated and contained items that they felt were not needed at this time, such as bath house inspection, ADA/VGB and State health compliance and an energy audit. Thompson asked when the last time a thorough analysis was done. Beimer responded that one has not been done in the 25 plus years that he has been here. He also said he would be more concerned with the life expectancy of the pumps, motors and filtration systems, as opposed to the structure of the

bathhouse and life guard house and Alliant Energy could do an energy audit at little or no cost to the City. Pool Tech was asked to come back with another estimate for the inspection of the mechanical equipment, pressure testing of the existing pool lines and structural integrity of the pool shell only.

- 10. Discussion and possible action on service contract for Environmental Assessment at fill site south of ambulance building. Siders said that Parks and Recreation has made a recommendation for possible uses of this site. They feel that if it were to be used as a public park, a site assessment should be done. The proposal is for the environmental assessment only and does not include any costs for mitigation if that were needed. The total for the assessment only is \$7,850.00. Christensen questioned whether there was some public benefit from this property that would not necessitate the environmental assessment. Siders stated that it is the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board that if there are going to be people physically participating on this land, they would like to know if it is safe or not. Thompson was concerned about the unknown costs if mitigation were needed and thought maybe this area could be used for something other than play areas or green space. Taylor asked for clarification on what the worst case scenario was in this case and what are the concerns and what is the likelihood that something would be found that would require mitigation. City Administrator Beimer said that the area has been used for dumping of items such as rotting stumps, pieces of asphalt, broken up concrete. He also stated that there are a lot of voids in the ground and it is still settling and it would be premature to think that any structures or a playground could be put there. Beimer felt the best course of action would be to let the area settle a little while longer and put some dirt down, put some seed down and see what grows and come up with a firm plan for what will happen with that area. Peterson said that this area has been used for a lot of different things over the years with little control and it is more the unknown than anything. The consensus of Council was to put top-soil down and let it settle and address the issue next year.
- 11. Discussion on relationship and partnership with Cornell. Peterson would like to table this item until the next meeting. Taylor made a motion to table, seconded by Thompson. Carried all. Anthony absent.
- 12. Discussion on 2014 sidewalk program. Peterson said that the 2012 & 2013 sidewalk programs were a significant part of the City and suggested looking at having the rest of the City done next year. Christensen would like to have data on what is left of the City to be done and how this will possibly affect the Capital Improvements Plan. City Engineer Dan Boggs will gather data and bring back for further discussion at the next meeting.
- 13. Second reading of <u>Ordinance #11-18-2013A</u>: An Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Mount Vernon, Iowa, by amending provisions pertaining to Council, the City Administrator and the Police Department authority and duties. Motion made by Christensen, seconded by Hampton to approve <u>Ordinance #11-18-2013A</u> on its second reading. Roll call all yes. Anthony absent.

- 14. Old Business.
- 15. New Business.

At 7:54 p.m. Council took a recess and reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

16. Worksession on Capital Improvements Plan for FY2015. Council and staff went through the 5 year Capital Improvements Plan and discussed areas that they wanted to reconsider or make changes to. After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to consider the following changes: Addition of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Reconstruction somewhere over the next three years, possible Police Department expansion, line item for sidewalks in FY2015 and line item for trails in FY2019. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

As there was no further business to attend to the meeting adjourned, the time being 8:56 p.m., December 2, 2013.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Dewell Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved Michael R. Beimer City Administrator